

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

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R 110935Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO AMEMBSSY AMMAN

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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SECSTATE WASHDC 7903

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SUBJECT: SYRIAN-JORDANIAN MILITARY COOPERATION

REF: AMMAN 5234

LAST PARA OF REFTTEL ALLUDES TO ARTICLES IN JERUSAELEM
POST OUTLING DETAILS OF ALLEGED SYRAIN-JORDANIAN
MILITARY COOPERATION ARRANGEMENTS REACHED DURING
PAST WEEKS. RELEVANT PORTIONS THESE ARTICLES FOLLOW:
BELOW:

2. JERUSALEM POST JULY 30 (AMMAN (UPI) - JORDAN AND
SYRAI ARE NEAR AGREEMENT ON SETTING UP A JOINT ARMY
COMMAND T COORDINATE THEIR MILITARYVIGHT AGAINST
ISRAEL INHHE EVENT OF ANOTHER MIDDLE EASTWAR,
DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAID YESTERDAY.
THE SOURCES SAID AN AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH
WIDE-RANGING MILITARY, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LINKS
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES MAY BE ANNOUNED TOMORROW
IF THE CURRENT TALKS BETWEEN VISITING SYRIAN PRIME
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MINISTER MAHMOUD EL-AYYOUBI AND HIS JORDANIAN HOST,

ZAID RIFAI, PROCEED AS PLANNED...

THE TALKS ARE DUE TO END TODAY WITH AYYOUBI FLYING BACK TO SYRIA TOMMORROW. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD PROBABLY COME IN THE FORM OF A JOINT COMMUNIQUE RELEASED AFTER HIS DEPARTURE, THE SOURCES SAID...

THE SOURCES SAID THE ENVISAGEE AGREEMENT WOULD ESTABLISH A JOINT COMMAND TO COORDINATE THE MOVEMENT OF THE SYRIAN AND JORDIAN ARMIES ALONG THEIR FRONTS WITH ISRAEL...

ON THE NON-MILITARY LEVE), BORDER RESTRICTIONS AND CUSTOMS FEES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD BE EASED AND A PLEDGE OF COMMON POLITICAL GOALS WOULD BE MADE, THE SOURCES SAID...

YORAM HAMIZRAHI ADDS; THERE AR SIGNS THAT SYRIAN OFFICERS ARE ADVISING THE JORDANIANS IN MANY ASPECTS OF FORTIFICATION WORK ALONG THE BORDER WITH ISRAEL, MAINLY ON THE GILAD MOUNTAIN RANGE. OBSERVERS POINTED OUT THAT THE JORDANIAN ARMY IS TRAINING LARGE ELEMENTS OF AIR-BORNE UNITS. THIS IS ALSO IN THE FRAMEWORK OF HE JOINT ARAB MILITARY PROGRAMME AS THE JORDAINANS KNOW THAT THEY WILL NEED TO DROP PARATROPPERS INTO THE WEST BANK IF THEY INTEND TO ATTACK WITH ARMOUR. THE JORDAINANS ALSO HELD JOINT EXERCIESE LAST MONTH, PREACISED WITH THE SAUDI ARABINA ARMY, AND USED THE LARGE SAUDI AIR BASE AT TABBUK, SOME 100 KMS. SOUTH OF AKABA, WHICH WAS BUILT BY THE US. IT ISBELEIVED THAT THE JORDANIANS WILL DEPEND ON THE SAUDIS IN THESOUTH IF THEY HAVE TO FIGHT ISRAEL TOGETHR WITH THE SYRIANS, IN THE NORTH...

3. JERUSALEM POST, MIDDLE EAST AFFIARS CORRESPONDENT, ANAN SAFADI, JULY 31, 1975.

SYRIAN PRIME MINISTER MAHMOUD EL-AYYOUBI LAST NIGHT WOUND UP FOUR DAYS OF TALKS IN AMMAN, HAVING REPORTEDLY LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR UNPRCENDETED COOPERATION IN COMBINING SYRIAN AND JORDANIAN POLITICAL, MILITARY AND ECONOMIC STRATEGIES. A JOINT COMMUNIQUE IS TO BE ANNOUNCED TODAY. AYYOUBI WAS ACCOMPANIED ON HIS AMMAN VISIT BY HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTER ABDUL-HALIM KHADDAM AND CHIEF OF STAFF HIKMAT SHEHABI. SHEHABI YESTERDAY UNCLASSIFIED

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HEDLSPEARATE TALKS WITH IHS JORDANIAN COUNTERPART. LT. GEN. ZAID BEN SHAKER, BUT NO DETAILS WERE DISCLOSED. EARLIER REPORTS FROM AMMAN SAID THAT JORDAN AND SYRIA WERE DISCUSSING SETTING UP A JOINT ARMY COMMAND UNDER THEIR NEW ALLIANCE, CONCLUDED BY KING HUSSEIN AND SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFEZ ASSAD DURING THE LATTER'S STATE VISIT TO JORDAN LAST MONTH...

A FLOW OF MILITARY HARDWARE FROM SYRIA TO JORDAN,

ESPECIALLY OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES, IS NOW SEEN
POSSIBLE IN THE AFTERMATH OF THIS WEEK'S REJECTION
BY THE U.S. CONGRESS OF AN ARMS DEAL WITH AMMAN
INVOLVING SOPHISTICATED HAWK ANTI-AIRCRAFT
MISSILES..."
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